

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is courteously requested in order to place all claims in this application in allowable condition and/or to place the non-allowed claims in better condition for consideration on appeal.

The Examiner's rejections will be considered in the order of their occurrence in the Office Action.

Paragraphs 2 through 5 of the Office Action

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinhart (prior art previously cited) in view of Kidder et al. (prior art previously cited), Benjafield (prior art previously cited), and Ryan (prior art previously cited).

Claims 11 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinhart (prior art previously cited) in view of Kidder et al. (prior art previously cited), Benjafield (prior art previously cited), and Ryan (prior art previously cited).

Claims 11, 12 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strong (prior art previously cited) in view of Hill (prior art previously cited), Benjafield (prior art previously cited), Steinhart (prior art previously cited) and Ryan (prior art previously cited).

Claim 1 has been cancelled.

Claim 11 has been amended to include the requirements of claim 15, which was indicated as being allowable in the Office Action, and therefore claim 11, as well as claims 12 and 18 which depend from claim 11, are also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 11, 12, and 18 is therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraph 6 of the Office Action

Paragraph 6 of the Office Action states that claim 4 to 9 and 13 to 17 would be allowable if written into independent form with the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The above amendment incorporates the limitations of claims 11 and 13 (in their form prior to this amendment) into the recitation of added claim 19, and therefore claim 19 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Added claims 20 through 23, by virtue of their dependency from added claim 19, are also submitted to be in condition for allowance without further consideration.

The above amendment also incorporates the limitations of claims 11 and 17 (in their form prior to this amendment) into the recitation of added claim 24, and therefore claim 24 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Added claims 25 through 28, by virtue of their dependency from added claim 24, are also submitted to be in condition for allowance without further consideration.

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